

**Remarks
Ambassador Lukens
USAID-NBA Global Partnership and
USAID/Senegal's "Live, Learn, and Play" Project Launch
Ambassador's Residence
May 6, 2014**

(As prepared)

Good evening. It is my pleasure to welcome you to my home tonight to celebrate two very important events. This week, and tomorrow's ceremony at John F. Kennedy High School, mark the official launch of a *global* partnership between the United States Agency for Development (USAID) and the National Basketball Association (NBA). We are also celebrating the kick-off of the USAID/*Senegal* Live, Learn and Play project, the very first project to be launched under this worldwide partnership.

The shared purpose of this global partnership -- and of the Live, Learn and Play project -- is to contribute to building up the confidence, skills, and civic and leadership values of young people. Focusing on the young people in Africa is a priority for President Obama's administration and now widely known through the Young African Leadership Initiative, or YALI. Some YALI fellows will be at the event tomorrow, and I hope you get the chance to interact with them.

I would like to thank the members of the Government of Senegal who are with us tonight. The Ministries of Education, Youth and Sports have been involved with Live, Learn and Play since the early stages of the project's conception, as has the President's Special Advisor on Sports, my friend Ndongo Ndiaye. You are all key to the success of the project and its long-term sustainability.

We also have several key members of the Senegalese private sector here with us tonight, and hopefully more will be joining us at the celebration tomorrow. Live, Learn and Play is starting out on a small scale, as we look at the best ways to implement these activities. Soon, however, we hope that our successes will be obvious and that we will be able to expand. Our private sector partners in Senegal and abroad will be critically important to our ability to undertake that expansion. So, thank you so much for your interest, and know that we will keep you up to date on the project's progress.

USAID Washington and Senegal, members of the NBA from the U.S. and Africa, and representatives of the Senegalese NGO community here with us tonight. Thank you for making the trip to be with us for this important occasion. For those who came from the U.S. and other parts of the world -- USAID Washington colleagues, NBA New York and NBA Johannesburg friends -- welcome or welcome back to Senegal. We are very excited to be working with the NBA and to use basketball as a platform to develop young Senegalese leaders. Thank you for your contributions to making this partnership and the USAID/*Senegal* Live, Learn and Play project a success.

In conclusion, I wish LLP -- and to the many youth, coaches, schools and communities who will be involved -- great success.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening!